

Message Text

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USIA FOR IOP/F, STATE FOR NEA/P/BRIGGS

1. GHALEB KAYYALI, FORMER SYRIAN DIPLOMAT WITH WASHINGTON
EXPERIENCE CURRENTLY FREELANCING FOR SEVERAL BEIRUT MAGAZINES,
VISITING U. S. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13 AND WASHINGTON BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 22.

2. KAYYALI WRITES FOR INDEPENDENT MASS CIRCULATION ARABIC-LANGUAGE
WEEKLY "AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI" (WHICH ENJOYS WIDE REGIONAL
DISTRIBUTION), INDEPENDENT ARABIC-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "AD-DIYAR,"
INDEPENDENT FRENCH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "MAGAZINE", AND PRO-LIBYAN
ARABIC-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "BAYRUT AL-ASA" (WHICH ALSO ENJOYS
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION, ESPECIALLY IN LIBYA).

3. FOR WANT OF BETTER WORD IN ENGLISH, KAYYALI IS BEST DESCRIBED
BY FRENCH WORD "ARRIVISTE". HE MAINTAINS FRIENDLY ELATIONS WITH
SEVERAL EMBOFFS, INCLUDING DCM, DESCRIBING HIMSELF IN HIS CONTACTS
AS "POLITICAL MODERATE". HIS ARTICLES TEND TO BE HALF-BAKED
SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES FROM MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS
REPLET LITH ANTI-ISRAELI JARGON, BUT HE HAS WRITTEN EXCELLENT
AND LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES ON LIFE IN U.S. AS WELL AS SERIES
OF ARTICLES ON ARABS IN AMERICA FOR "BAYRUT AL-ASA". HE ALSO
WROTE FINE EULOGY OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES FOR "MAGAZINE".

4. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH ACTING PAO AND IN LIGHT OF CURRENT
CONCERNS AND MYTHS REFLECTED IN BEIRUT PRESS, KAYYALI SEEKING INTER-
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VIEWS, IDSCUSSIONS, OR BRIEFINGS ON ANY AGREED BASIS WITH PUBLIC

AND PRIVATE FIGURES CONCERNED WITH MIDDLE EAST TO ILLUSTRATE:
(A) CONTINUITY OF U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWING PRESIDENT
FORD'S SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY; (B) OPENMINDEDNESS OF U.S. G.
ON PALESTINE QUESTION AND ON EVENTTUAL POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL
CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS; (C) ABSENCE OF ANY ZIONIST PLOT BEHIND
WATERGATE AND PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION. KAYYALI'S READY
ACCESS TO FOUR OF BEIRUT'S MOST IMPORTANT WEEKLIES COULD SERVE
AS USEFUL CHANNEL FOR AUTHORITATIVE REAFFIRMATION OF THESE AND
OTHER POINTS.

5. IN ADDITION, ACTING PAO HAS ENCOURAGED KAYYALI TO DO ARTICLE
ON ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUPS INVOLVED IN ARAB
WORLD AND MIDDLE EAST (MEI, AFME, ANERA, ETC.), AS WELL AS
ARTICLE ILLUSTRATING THOSE TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS IN AMERICA THAT
ARAB WOULD FIND PARTICULARLY INTERESTING -- I.E., "TOURISTIC
AMERICA" AS SEEN THROUGH ARAB EYES.

6. KAYYALI HAS BEEN TOLD TO CONTACT WASHINGTON FOREIGN PRESS
CENTER AND JIM BRIGGS IN NEA/P FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE
IN ARRANGING CONTACTS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS FOUR AND
FIVE ABOVE. HE SPEAKS VERY GOOD ENGLISH AND KEEPS APPOINTMENTS.

7. COMMENT: AS FAR AS POST IS AWARE, KAYYALI IS COMING IN
NO OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND BEARS NO "MESSAGES" FOR U.S. G.
THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND IN VIEW OF KAYYALI'S ATTEMPT
ON PREVIOUS VISIT TO U.S. (1970?) TO PASS HIMSELF OFF TO SENIOR
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS AS MESSENGER FOR VARIOUS AND SUNDY ARAB
LEADERS.

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